



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

TRAVELING MUSIC / WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

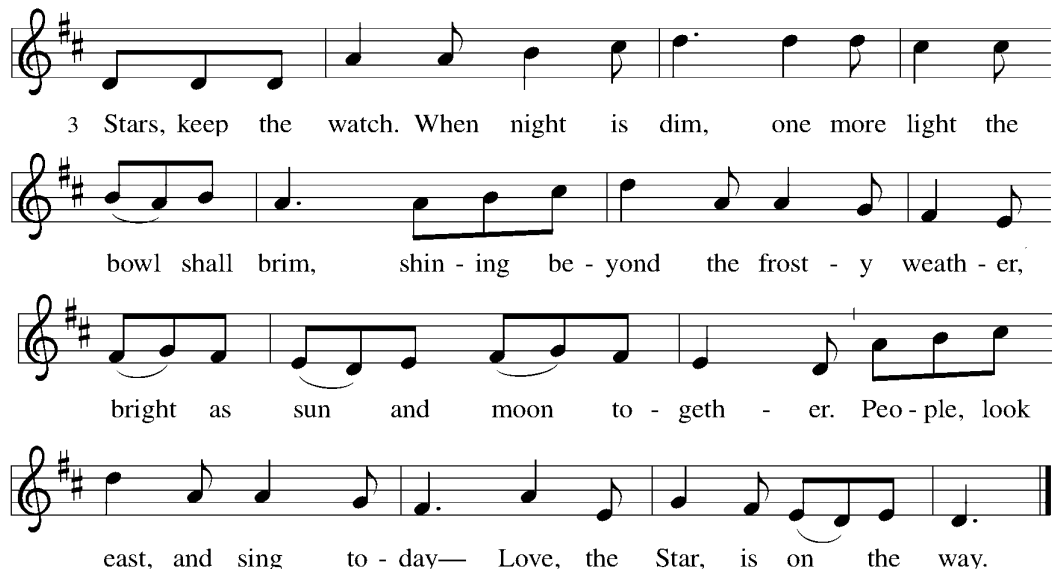
LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 3

A Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

C let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

People Look
East, v.3



READING James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

L A reading from the fifth chapter of James.

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Sung)

C Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

P The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you—eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

P The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you—drink and remember He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

C And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth. As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again! And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan

VERSE



1. I am the Bread of life. You who
2. The bread that I will give is My
3. Un - less you eat of the
4. I am the Res - ur - rec - tion, that
5. Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

3

come to Me shall not hun - ger; and who be - lieve in Me shall not
flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this
flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His
I am the life. If you be - lieve in
You are the Christ, the Son of

6

thirst. No one can come to Me un -
bread, you shall live for - ev - er,
blood, and drink of His blood, you
Me, e - ven though you die,
God, Who has come in -

9

less the Fa - ther beck - ons.
you shall live with - ev - er.
shall not have life in you.
you shall live for - ev - er.
to the world.

continued...

CHORUS

"And I will raise _____ you up, _____ and I will

13 raise _____ you up, _____ and I will raise _____ you

16 up _____ on the last _____ day."

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Next Page

GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF DAY

A Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

VERSE 1 & 2

Oh oh oh, oh oh oh. 1. Come, Thou long ex -
2. Born Thy peo - ple

7
pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.
to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a King.

13
From our fears and sins re - lease us. Let us find our
Born to reign in us for - ev - er. Now Thy gra - cious

19
rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it,

25
hope of all the earth Thou art. Dear de - sire of
rule in all our hearts a - lone. By Thine all suf -

31
ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious

heart.
throne.

43
1 2
You draw the hearts of shep - herds, You draw the hearts of kings.

49
E - ven as a ba - by, You were chang - ing ev - 'ry - thing. You called me to Your king -

54
dom be - fore Your lips could speak, and e - ven as a ba - by, You were reach -

59
ing out for me. And now we are a - wait - ing the day of Your re - turn

64
when ev - 'ry eye will see You as heav - en comes to earth. Un - til

69
the sky is o - pened, un - til the trum - pet sounds, the bride is get - ting read -

continued...

[VERSE 3]

74 y, the Church is sing - ing out. 3. Come, Thou long ex -

79 pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.

85 From our fears and sins re - lease us. Let us find our

91 rest in Thee. Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed King.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them."⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?"⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces."⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet."¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "God of grace,"
The congregation's response is: "hear our prayer."*

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

COPYRIGHTS

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE Contributors: Suzanne Toolan Tune & Text: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS Charles Wesley, Jacob Sooter, Meredith Andrews, Rowland Hugh Prichard CCLI Song# 70+6082 © Curb Songs (admin by Curb Music Pub)

JESUS, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD Larry Contributors: Jeffrey Radford Tune: Arrangement © 1992 Pilgrim Press

MUSIC: Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-731197 and CCLI #3289425. All rights reserved.

LITURGY: From Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress, All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS003917

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'p' (piano). The score consists of five systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The fifth system concludes the piece with a final chord and a double bar line.

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.